



Global Student
Partnership for
Development

THE U8: CONNECTING STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD

“What distinguishes U8 from other development campaigns and networks is its university base. Highly educated intelligence, combined with human concern, offers the best hope of solving the deeply difficult problems of poverty around the world.” - Adrian Wood, Former Chief Economist at the UK’s Department for International Development.

What is the U8?

The U8 is a global student network. It links individual local student groups from around the world; letting students learn and engage with development in a free thinking environment. Two core principles define the network: inclusivity and impartiality. We welcome the thoughts, ideas and participation of everyone and we do not represent any particular opinion.

Through our network we aim to build global student partnerships and engage with policy-makers and professionals. Our vision is of a membership that will use this to gain new global perspectives, which they will take into their professional lives to positively impact the world.

How does it work?

The U8 operates as an umbrella network, connecting local U8 groups and U8 linked groups from developing and developed countries. On a global level, we encourage interaction between our members through our website and social media sites (www.u8development.org). On a local level, we encourage both our U8 groups and U8 linked groups to organise a variety of events; such as talks, panel debates, discussion forums and film showings.

Future Plans

2011 sees our most ambitious project to date: we want students from all around the world to be able to participate in a truly global conversation about the challenges facing our communities, our countries and our world. In November 2011 we will have the first U8 Online Summit; enabling students from around the world to share ideas and perspectives.

We have previously brought students together from universities in over 19 countries and brought the student voice to the attention of governments and the world’s media; including the Guardian and the Hindu. 2011 will see a sustained worldwide campaign to raise awareness of the importance and complexity of global issues. There has never been a more exciting time to be a part of the U8!

How can I get involved?

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals and existing development societies to set up local U8 groups at their university or to link with the global U8 network. To learn more about this exciting opportunity, please contact the University Links team today:

unilinks@u8development.org.